

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 8, replace the paragraph beginning at line 28 with the following paragraph:

Fig. 7 (A) cDNA (SEQ ID NO. 1) and (B) corresponding amino acid sequence of human pre-pro-mature GDF-15 (SEQ ID NO. 3). Nucleotides and amino acids are abbreviated according to the international one letter codes.

On page 8, replace the paragraph beginning at line 33 with the following paragraph:

Fig. 8 (A) cDNA (SEQ ID NO. 2) and (B) corresponding amino acid sequence of human mature GDF-15 (SEQ ID NO. 4) .

On page 9, replace the paragraph beginning at line 9 with the following paragraph:

According to a possible alternative translation start codon which is located 39 nucleotides upstream from the first nucleotide of the sequence shown in Fig. 7A, the corresponding protein may also comprise 13 additional amino acids (MPGQELRTLNGSQ) (SEQ ID NO. 5) N-terminal to the sequence shown in Fig. 7B.

On page 9, replace the paragraph beginning at line 14 with the following paragraph:

The protein, which is named GDF-15, was recombinantly expressed using the baculovirus system. Furthermore, an antibody against a specific peptide derived from the murine and rat C-terminal sequence (HRTDSGVSLQTYDDL) (SEQ ID NO. 6) has been developed. Due to the high homology of the corresponding region of the human sequence (QKTD TGVS LQTYDDL) (SEQ ID NO. 7), this

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antibody recognizes also human GDF-15.

Please insert the attached Sequence Listing after Page 19 and before Page 20 of the specification and renumber the pages accordingly.